



Schools Advocation for Fair Funding



SAFF Districts

- Albany
- Albert Lea
- Annandale
- Austin
- Belle Plaine
- Big Lake
- Braham
- Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose
- Cambridge-Isanti
- Cannon Falls
- Centennial
- Chisago Lakes
- Dassel-Cokato
- Delano
- East Central
- Faribault
- Forest Lake
- Fridley
- Hinckley-Finlayson
- Hutchinson
- Jordan
- Kasson-Mantorville
- Kenyon-Wanamingo
- Kimball
- Lake City
- Litchfield
- Medford
- Melrose
- Milaca
- Mora
- New London-Spicer
- New Prague
- North Branch
- Owatonna
- Paynesville
- Princeton
- Rockford
- Rocori
- Royalton
- Rush City
- Sartell-St. Stephen
- St. Francis
- St. Michael-Albertville
- Stewartville
- Waconia

Schools Advocating for Fair Funding (SAFF) works to ensure that all public-school children have equal access to a high-quality education regardless of where they live in Minnesota. Our success does not depend on geography. Success depends on school districts with similar characteristics and their communities joining together to shape Minnesota politicians' education finance and policy decisions.

Working together, we will make a difference!

About SAFF Districts

- SAFF is a coalition of 47 Minnesota school districts. SAFF member districts have a wide range of student enrollment.
- Two common characteristics bring SAFF districts together:
 - * The student demographics in SAFF school districts do not generate significant categorical aid or other funding from the state. Thus, SAFF districts tend to receive the minimum in state funding.
 - * SAFF districts tend to be lower-property wealth districts where the taxpayer cost for a school levy dollar is high. This makes it more expensive for taxpayers and challenging to pass voter-approved levies to make up for inadequate state funding.
- SAFF contains districts with less than 1,000 and also includes some of the largest in the state. SAFF districts are located across the state, including suburban and Greater Minnesota school districts.

Advantages of SAFF Membership

A constant presence at the Minnesota Capitol lobbying on issues that impact your district.

- Speaking with one voice on shared issues enhances the ability to influence state funding and policy.
- SAFF districts retain high-caliber, experienced lobbyist by leveraging their buying power with other districts.
- SAFF lobbyists have a deep understanding of the legislative process and expertise in education funding and policy.

Understandable data and resources to support communication on the issues that impact SAFF districts

- SAFF's staff can make complex issues understandable. For example, SAFF's Capitol Pizza video simplified the issue of equity without having to understand the complexities of school finance.
- SAFF maintains an excellent website with information specific to individual SAFF districts to assist communications with your community and legislators. MinnPost declared that the SAFF website was the go-to place for education funding information that, "... is home to an impressive collection of documents that might well be titled, "School Finance for Dummies.""
- SAFF provides timely and accurate information through weekly legislative updates, daily blogs, and action alerts during the legislative session and continued research throughout the year.

“The quality of a child’s education should not depend on their zipcode.”

More Advantages of SAFF Membership

Professional development and networking at SAFF meetings and events

- Excellent programming at **SAFF general membership** meetings connects administrators and board members with educational experts and political insiders to discuss timely and relevant issues. The meetings are held in Roseville. Previous program speakers included:
 - Key legislators, including House and Senate leadership and E-12 committee chairs, discussing their legislative priorities.
 - Dr. Bill Morris, one of Minnesota’s leading analysts of public opinion and political trends, sharing Minnesotan’s perspective on education and other issues.
 - A legislative session wrap-up from the Minnesota Department of Education, days after the end of the legislative session.
- Approximately sixty SAFF members attend each of the five to six **general membership meetings**, providing excellent networking opportunities with colleagues that share similar interests and challenges.
- Additionally, at **SAFF’s three annual regional meetings**, SAFF staff meets directly with members in small group settings around the state to provide current information in a format that promotes questions and a free exchange of ideas.
- At SAFF’s meetings and events, members become better informed and prepared to address funding and equity issues with their communities and legislators.

The director/lobbyist educates and engages a growing network of education advocates including parents, community members, and business leaders within SAFF districts and stands ready to support community engagement in your district.

- The liaison organizes and hosts highly-effective “SAFF Days at the Capitol”, bringing community members and their legislators together with direct liaison support to discuss K-12 issues specific to their districts.
- The director is ready to travel to SAFF districts to share a powerful, yet easy to understand, presentation for community members, school boards or staff that explains how schools are funded, why they continue to struggle financially and what can be done to help.



All public school children must have equal access to a high quality education regardless of where they live in Minnesota.

www.schoolsforequity.org
